GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1443
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2016
Subsidy for Power Generation
Roy Prof. Saugata

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy being given to the producers and consumers for power generation from wind, solar and other renewable energy sources;
(b) whether the Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to speed up research and development activities to bring down the cost and to develop technologies in the renewable energy sector; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR POWER, COAL, NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY & MINES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)
(a): The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) provides incentives/subsidy/central financial assistance to the producers and consumers for power generation from wind, solar and other renewable energy sources under various Renewable Energy Programmes as per details given in Annexure.
(b): Yes, Madam. The MNRE has been supporting Research and Development (R&D) to various R&D/academic institutions, NGOs, industries, etc. in the field of solar, wind, biogas, biofuel, Hydrogen, Fuel Cells, geothermal, etc. for technology development and demonstration leading to commercialization. A comprehensive policy and guidelines for research, development and demonstration (RD&D) for new and renewable energy sector is in place. It has a provision for financial assistance of up to 50% of the project cost for the projects that involve partnership with industry / civil society. However, for a proposal from academic institutions, Government/non-profit research organizations and NGOs, the MNRE provides upto 100% funding. In addition, the MNRE has established three institutes, namely, National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) and National Institute of Bio Energy (NIBE) for R&D, testing and evaluation in solar, wind and bioenergy, respectively.

In order to review the progress of on-going projects and to identify thrust areas for RD&D, the MNRE organized a day long "Brainstorming Consultation Meeting on RD & D" on 5th January 2016, which was attended by key subject experts from R&D/academic institutions, industries and concerned MNRE Group/Divisional Heads. In the meeting, "Thrust Areas with Action Plan for RD&D" for support by MNRE was prepared and uploaded at MNRE web for project preparation and implementation. It has strong emphasis on industry association and also collaboration for R&D projects for technology development leading to commercialization.
The MNRE has spent Rs. 306.65 crores on R&D projects in solar, small wind and hybrid, biogas, biofuel, hydrogen, fuel cells and small hydro implemented by various R&D/academic institutions, industries during the last four years and the current year.
(c): The focus areas for R&D are solar energy, wind hybrid systems, biogas, biofuels, hydrogen, fuel cells and related components. R&D projects undertaken have strengthened R&D/ academic institutes, industries for furthering RD&D for technology development for commercialization. In solar photovoltaics, the focus has been on indigenous development of solar cells with improved efficiency at par with international level, with cost reduction. Crystalline silicon solar cell of 18% efficiency has been developed at lab scale. R&D efforts are continuing for improvement of efficiency with cost reduction. R&D in solar thermal power provided feedback on operational aspects of the technology for further development. R&D in hybridization of solar and wind is being pursued for ensuring improved energy supply from renewable energy. In addition, R&D efforts are going on for design, development and demonstration of hydrogen and fuel cells for power generation and other uses.

The R&D efforts have led to design and development of solar water heating system, solar cookers, solar photovoltaic system, biogas plants, improved biomass cookstoves, gasifiers, biomass cogeneration, etc.
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